



# MEMO

from

Sir George Williams University  
Library

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## FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE

The Association of Universities & Colleges of Canada - Annual Meeting, Vancouver. A concern for developing adequate library resources for academic and research work is general throughout the country. It finds its expression both in discussions at academic and library association meetings, and in the construction of new library buildings in all parts of Canada. I had the good fortune to attend the Vancouver meetings of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, and on the same trip to visit several university libraries.

At the meetings of the A.U.C.C., the report of the Commission on the Financing of Higher Education in Canada - the Bladen Report- was discussed at length, and the section dealing with the development of research collections received attention from several groups.

In brief the commission included in its general recommendations for increased financial support to universities, an allowance which it felt was adequate for general library needs - and which would enable universities to allocate out of greatly increased revenues a much larger sum to support their libraries than is now the case. In addition to this they recognized the necessity of "massive support necessary to develop strong research libraries". With respect to research libraries the commission's recommendations took into account submissions from the Canadian Association of Graduate Schools, and the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries.

The commission recommended that (a) grants by the National Research Council for research be raised to \$40 million for 1966-67, and increased at a rate of 20% annually thereafter; (b) grants by the Medical Research Council be raised to \$20 million for 1966-67 and increased at a rate of 20% annually thereafter; (c) grants for research in the social sciences and humanities by the Canada Council be raised to \$15 million for 1966-67 and increased at a rate of 20% annually thereafter, and that \$2 million of this be distributed as grants to university libraries for the development of their research collections. The commission recognized the need for developing science research collections and without proposing particular sums of money urged that N.R.C., and M.R.C. give favourable consideration to applications for grants for special library collections in the sciences.



At the meetings of the Canadian Studies group, the Canadian Association of Graduate Schools and the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries the adequacy of the recommendation for the humanities and social sciences was questioned, and particularly the fixed sum of \$2 million for research collections. Since each dollar spent for new books must be matched by a dollar to cover the costs of supplies and staff needed for cataloguing and processing, it means that in fact such a grant of \$2 million will only buy \$1 million of books. If this sum is spread among the appropriate universities across the country, the annual amount which each would receive would not be sufficient to ensure significant progress in developing research collections in the humanities and social sciences, fields in which the output of publication is already great, and rapidly expanding.

The feeling was expressed by several speakers that the total support of research in the humanities and the social sciences should be increased, and that the provision of funds for research collections should be flexible and increasing over the years. This was felt to be essential if the progress of research in the humanities and the social sciences is to keep pace with that of the sciences and medicine.

In general the A.U.C.C. meetings were most interesting and productive, and meeting one's counterparts from other institutions gave a chance to compare notes and discuss mutual problems.

#### Visits to Other Libraries

On the way to and from the A.U.C.C. meetings I took the opportunity to visit several university libraries. The first was to the University of Waterloo where I attended a special convocation at which honorary degrees were granted to Miss Bertha Bassam, retired director of the University of Toronto Library School, Mr. Jack Brown, chief librarian of the National Research Council, and Mr. R. H. Blackburn, chief librarian of the University of Toronto. Mr. Blackburn is one of the critic consultants assisting us in preparing the program of requirements for our new main library building.

The convocation was followed by the official opening of the new University of Waterloo Arts Library, which is of particular interest to us since it has been purposely planned as a high rise library despite the fact that high land values were not a critical factor in its location. Seven of its eventual ten stories have been built, and at present some of the university offices are temporarily located in the building until such time as the space is needed for the library. I was told that the library's book budget has already increased so much that area planned for technical services is too small. This seems to be a perennial problem of universities where growth outstrips the most carefully prepared plans to deal with it. The exterior of the library is most impressive in appearance, and the interior planning and furnishing shows that great care has been taken in arranging for the functional needs of library service and creating an atmosphere conducive to study and research.

Both the University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University have new library buildings each of striking appearance in its own distinctive way. The University of Victoria library can be expanded by adding an addition equal in size to the present building. That of Simon Fraser can be expanded by adding five extra stories bringing it to a total height of ten stories. Both these libraries are faced with problems of rapid growth similar to those which we face. I had a chance to meet members of the staff of each library and discuss library problems.

The University of British Columbia Library is well established and possesses a large collection of varied materials. During my visit the members of the staff were most



helpful in discussing a number of library problems in the light of their experience in a much more advanced and sophisticated system. The questions which we touched on included systems and procedures and approaches to automation, new acquisitions procedures, microform collections, and listening facilities.

Canadian Library Association - Council Meetings, Calgary.

The final stop on the trip was in Calgary where the Council of the C.L.A. met on October 30 and 31. At the meeting a number of questions were discussed in what amounted to a twentieth anniversary assessment of the Association's achievements in the past and its role in the future. A range of questions to do with library education and the utilization of professional and non-professional staff were considered; the need for new library schools and scholarships; federal support for libraries; and finally the financial prospects of the association. Much of what was given preliminary discussion here will find a place on the program of the annual conference in June 1966. In addition to this reports of the sections and committees were received and considered, as well as their program plans for the June conference.

This completed the round of library visits and conference meetings - quite enough for awhile.

SPECIAL NOTE

This issue of Memo has been arranged for the purpose of providing a comparative picture between last month and the previous October in the area of library operations.

ACQUISITION NOTES

The number of orders placed for the month of October 1965 was 936. This figure is 353 in excess of the 583 orders placed during October of the previous year.

The library received 1,720 items during the past month, 1,554 of which were purchased and 166 were gifts. In the previous year for the same period, acquisition records show only 794 items received, of which 776 were purchased and 18 were gifts.

At the end of October, \$40,795.00 of the book budget has been spent and \$64,431.00 committed.

CATALOGUING NOTES

	October 1964	October 1965
Titles		
New	440	842
Reclassified	290	333
Volumes		
New	761	4,017
Reclassified	658	1,537



State of the collection:

		October 1964	October 1965
Titles:	LC	7,394 titles	19,842 titles
	Dewey	<u>37,809 titles</u>	<u>34,966 titles</u>
	Total:	45,203 titles	54,858 titles
Volumes:	LC	12,935 volumes	38,709 volumes
	Dewey	<u>54,110 volumes</u>	<u>47,019 volumes</u>
	Total:	67,045 volumes	85,728 volumes

We note with interest a gain of about 19,000 volumes in the collection in one year.

The addition of the following three items to the collection accounts for the large increase in the number of volumes during October 1965.

New York back file - 1380 in microfilm reels  
The Nation - 185 volumes in microcards  
British Hansard - 800 volumes on microprint

CIRCULATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

This year statistics for the month of October indicate a general decrease in use of library materials as compared with the same period last year. A possible reason for this is the later than usual assignment of some term paper topics. If so, an escalation in the statistics for November is anticipated.

Comparative Circulation Statistics

	October 1964	October 1965
General Collection	10,129	10,110
Reserve Collection	2,803	2,250
Reading Room Only	2,564	2,073
Periodicals	1,022	1,464
Records	45	28
Microfilm	-	59

Since the document collection is available to students for use only in the library, a statistical report is not available at this time. However, the trend appears to be towards heaviest use by the geography, history and political science students.

REFERENCE NOTES

	October 1964	October 1965
Reference Inquiries	573	845
Catalogue Inquiries	496	380
Selection Slips Checked	583	1,117
Interlibrary Loans	33	37



APPOINTMENTS

We welcome the following staff members who have been appointed:

Mrs. Theresa English, cataloguing clerk 1.

Judith Whitelaw, circulation clerk.

DEPARTURES

Mrs. Margo Button resigned her position on October 15 to move to Ottawa.

Marion Schubert left on October 15 for a visit to Germany.

Readers of MEMO are invited to submit material they feel may be of interest to Miss Carol Calder, Library Circulation Department.